



The Fountain of Fair Fortune



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Chapter 1 by Estefanía López Deflory

Hi! I'm a knight and I'm going to tell you the story of how I met my best friends.

Everything started one day when I was in the forest. I had been wandering for days, moaning and crying, not knowing where to go. My king had died in a duel and I hadn't been able to do anything to save him. What a dishonor for a knight like me! I used to be brave and restless, and I had lost my strengths and my motivation. Nobody would ever want me as their guard and protector anymore.

Suddenly, at dusk, I saw some smoke and heard some giggling voices. I tiptoed to some bushes and tried to see what it was. There were three women around a bonfire. They spoke too low and I couldn't hear what they were saying. I approached a little bit more... slowly.... And I tripped over and suddenly found myself clumsily founding at one of the young ladies feet.

I had obviously scared them because they shouted, but then they started to laugh. It didn't seem to bother them that I had been spying them. They told me they were Asha, Altheda and Amata and that they were trying to reach a magical fountain and that they could use someone like me, in case they found something on their way. I was hopeless and I didn't ask questions, I just joined them.

The girls seemed to know where they were going and I just followed their lead. On the way I discovered just one of them could make use of the magical fountain. But they were so supportive of each other. I wondered how they would choose the fortunate one.

Everything went smoothly until we had to pass three challenging tests. I watched amazed at how the women overcame the obstacles. I asked anything of me or made fun of my clumsiness, even though I was a knight.

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Once we arrived at the fountain, Altheda started to feel very bad. She was sick and couldn't walk anymore. But Asha made a potion that saved her... That's when I knew those brave girls were witches! In my kingdom, we would probably have hanged or drowned them if we had suspected them of having magical powers. But we had been wrong all along. Witches were just different from us, not monsters! They were even better people than most of the fellows I knew.

In the end, none of the witches bathed: they wanted me to go into the fountain instead. I kindly refused. All those adventures hadn't been in vain. They found a sad knight who didn't have honor and I had finished the quest realising how good people were and how I didn't need to serve any noblemen, just be loyal to my new friends.

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